



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

**“HARTFORD’S GOT GAME”
BIG EAST WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT RETURNS**

---NEWS ADVISORY FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 7TH---

3:00 p.m.--- Hoop It Up in Hartford! Mayor Eddie A. Perez is pleased to announce that 300 Hartford youngsters will once again have the opportunity to experience championship basketball on their home court!

Thanks to The XL Center, The Greater Hartford Convention and Visitors Bureau, and The Hartford Hospitality Task Force, tickets are being donated to Hartford youth groups and after school programs. Mayor Perez, XL Center General Manager Marty Brooks and Northwest Catholic High School’s band and cheerleaders will meet and greet members of some of the teams participating in this year’s tournament. They’ll share remarks and championship spirit with the crowd at the Hilton Hartford Hotel (host hotel for the tournament), 315 Trumbull Street, in Downtown Hartford. The games will be played from March 8th-11th.

Mayor Perez says, “Keeping this kind of tournament event in Hartford is important for fans and the economy alike. This is just one of the reasons why I feel it is important for the city, region, state, and the private sector to work together and discuss the feasibility of a new championship arena.”

Please note: All the sports action continues with the 2008 America East Women’s Basketball Championship. These sessions begin Thursday, March 13th and run through Sunday, March 18th at the University of Hartford.

For more information on the Mayor’s role, please contact Sarah Barr, Director of Communications, at (860) 550-3174 (cell).